

TRW MICROWAVE, INC (BUILDING 825)

SUNNYVALE, CA

Health & Environment

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What Are the Risks at the Site?

A vapor intrusion investigation conducted at the building at the TRW Site in 2013 (which was unfinished and unoccupied at the time), indicated that vapor intrusion into the building was occurring. Vapor intrusion is a process whereby vapors from contaminated groundwater move upward through the soil and enter the indoor air of nearby buildings. Additional investigation and mitigation work were completed in 2014 to address the vapor intrusion risks, and included the removal of impacted soil and groundwater beneath the building, installation of a building subslab vapor system as a precautionary measure, and sealing of the floor slab during the building remodel that was conducted prior to occupancy by the new/current tenants. A subsequent vapor intrusion investigation conducted in the building in 2015 indicated that vapor intrusion has been successfully mitigated and indoor air concentrations have been reduced to levels that EPA considers protective of human health.

~~EPA began indoor air sampling in the residential neighborhood adjacent to the Site, which overlies the TCE groundwater plume, in late 2015. More than 250 buildings have been sampled to date, and twenty mitigation systems have been installed in residences and classrooms to prevent unacceptable levels of TCE vapors from accumulating indoors.~~

Groundwater beneath the site has been contaminated by various Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), primarily trichloroethene (TCE). However, institutional controls are in place to ensure that no one can ingest or come in direct contact with contaminated groundwater. Drinking water is not affected by the contamination. Drinking water in this area comes from the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, and is regularly tested to ensure that it meets all applicable state and federal requirements. Municipal wells for the cities of Santa Clara and Mountain View tap a deep aquifer as a drinking water source that has not been affected by the contamination.